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We hope to have orders to send the GAZETTE regularly to the stores and dwellings of all the citizens of Alexandria. Orders for the paper to be sent where the mails are now running in the country, will receive prompt attention.

Such has been the recklessness with which statements are published in the newspapers, that the public, very naturally, and, in our opinion, very correctly, refuse any credence whatever to one-half of what is printed, and are inclined much to doubt or hesitate about the other half. The adage says that "truth lies at the bottom of a well." The newspapers have sunk it deeper than any Artesian boring that has yet been carried on, and it seems to be now harder to find than ever. Still let us not despond. The dignity, the candor, the honor, the truthfulness of the public press, we trust, is not yet entirely extinct. The "spicyness" of the blackguard newspaper, the "cayenne pepper" of the rowdy newspaper, the "sensation paragraphs" of the lying newspaper, are held by intelligent and respectable men in as much detestation and abhorrence as they ever were; and TRUTH and RESPECTABILITY will yet as surely prevail in moulding public sentiment, as the sun ultimately succeeds in chasing away clouds and vapors.

We have at present, the prospect, in town, as far as business is concerned, of a dull season.—Many of the restaurants and stores, which were seen in our principal streets, for some months past, when large numbers of the U. S. troops were here or in the neighborhood, are closing, and more will soon be closed. But we hope that our citizens will do the best they can under the circumstances; and that those of them who are engaged in any kind of business, or intend to transact business, will not forget that to *advertise* is the surest way to increase their business; that the cost of advertising is always ten times repaid in the amount of sales:—and that the shrewdest business men have always acknowledged that "the money paid for an advertisement in a newspaper was the best investment ever made." We admit that the old fable of their "being nothing like leather," can be pleasantly quoted against us; but, if we speak a word for ourselves, surely we can be excused when it is remembered that we utter a hundred "for the rest of mankind."

We will feel obliged to any of our friends who will receive the names of such of our citizens who wish to be supplied regularly with the GAZETTE, and leave them at the office, over French's book-store, on King street. Advertisements can be left there, and at other places, which will be designated in a few days.

Wm. Allen Bryan, of Va., has been appointed chief of the bureau of inspection of the U. S. Postoffice Department.

It is time now that the *sanitary* condition of this town should be attended to promptly and efficiently. The warm weather is approaching, and steps should be taken, at once, to remove all nuisances, to clean up the streets and alleys, to air and dry the cellars, and especially to have such regulations enforced as will prevent the future accumulation of filth in and around the town. This important subject admits of no delay. Under present circumstances, if any epidemic disease should break out in our midst this summer, its results might be fearful. Within the last week, we observe that several of the principal streets have been cleared of much rubbish.

GENERAL NEWS.

The following statistics of slavery in the District of Columbia are from the last census tables. The number is considerably decreased since; but the list may be interesting as furnishing an idea of the relative proportion of male and female, young, old, and middle aged:—The total, when summed up is 3,185—1,212 males, 1,973 females—of whom 68 are under 1 year, 285 between 1 and 5 years, 361 between 5 and 10, 527 between 10 and 15, 450 between 10 and 20, 533 between 20 and 30, 327 between 30 and 40, 260 between 40 and 50, 192 between 50 and 60, 110 between 60 and 70, 48 between 80 and 90, and one between 90 and 100.

The opening of the world's exhibition in London is at hand. The Emperor of France and other crowned heads are to be present. The Queen's health and affliction will not, it is said, permit her to take part in the ceremonies. It is stated that many products of American skill and ingenuity have been received for the show. It is to be observed that neither the U. S. government nor the Confederate States have taken measures in regard to the exhibition, and exhibitors from this country act on their own motion.

The route is re-opened from Washington via Falls Church, to Fairfax Court House, Va., and post offices are re-established at both those points. Mail matter is to be sent via Washington. The office at Winchester, Va., is re-established, and Chas. Chase is in charge of it. Mail matter for Leesburg and Waterford post offices is sent by Point of Rocks on Baltimore and Ohio railroad.

The U. S. Adjutant General has issued orders, stating that upon requisitions made by commanders of armies in the field, the War Department will authorize the Governors of States to recruit regiments now in service. No new regiments will be raised, and probably those in process of being raised will be disbanded.

The celebrated and somewhat notorious Burch divorce suit has finally been disposed of in the Wayne County (Michigan) Circuit Court, held at Detroit, by the granting of a decree of divorce to Mrs Burch.

There are said to be now but 100 prisoners in the old capitol at Washington, only two of whom are in the hospital.

Gen. Wool has granted to the contrabands at Fortress Monroe permission to occupy the Hampton side of the creek, between the fortress and Hampton. He allows each family to take one acre for cultivation, and to use, for the purpose of constructing houses, such building materials as remained after the conflagration of the town of Hampton. Gen. Wool has removed from the office of quartermaster at the fortress.

On Saturday afternoon, a meeting of conservative members of the U. S. Congress was held in the Hall of the House, for the purpose of consulting as to the best mode of effectually defeating the schemes of the abolitionists and secessionists." Hon John J. Crittenden was chosen Chairman, and Hon. Samuel S. Cox Secretary.

A recent court martial at Charlestown, Va., found Captain West and Lieut. Mackey, of the Federal army, guilty of keeping wives in camp, dressed in men's clothes, and cashiered them. At the same court, Col. De Villiers, of Ohio, was cashiered.

Hon. Samuel F. Vinton, of Ohio, died in Washington, on Sunday afternoon, after a brief illness, of erysipelas. He was for many years a representative in Congress, and recently appointed one of the commissioners under the District of Columbia emancipation act.

It is understood that Hon. Reverdy Johnson has written a letter not only assailing the policy of the Emancipation Act for the District of Columbia, but also taking the ground that the said legislation is unconstitutional.

The Postmaster General has ordered a contract with John W. Clu', of Falls Church, Va., to convey mails from Fairfax Court House, by Vienna, Peach Grove and Falls Church, to Washington and back, three times a week.

A large fire has occurred in Troy, destroying the bridge across the Hudson river, the Fulton, Union, and American Houses, Washington Hall, four churches, and numerous other public buildings.

Harry A. Stewart, son of Dr. Stewart, of Baltimore, a prisoner in the Old Capitol, while attempting to escape on Monday, was shot by the sentry, and died from the effects of the wound.

Mr. W. T. Smithson, banker, of Washington, who was taken to Fort Lafayette several months ago, has been released, and arrived in Washington on Saturday night.

An arrival at New York from the Gulf reports that the Confederates were still in possession of Pensacola, but an attack by the Federal forces were daily expected.

Reports from the Lower Mississippi represent that the destruction of cotton, sugar and molasses, is very general throughout the South.

The Richmond papers report that thirty-thousand bales of cotton were burned at New Orleans.

The cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth are occupied by the Federal troops.